

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
10

11 RICHARD DUNMORE,
12 CDCR #V-17574,

13 Plaintiff,

14
15 vs.
16

17 G.J. JANDA; L. ROMERO; J. PARTIDA;
18 T. MOLINA; FREGOSO; THOMAS
19 BARAJAZ; AUGER; A. LUCK;
ELLIS, JANE AND JOHN DOES,

20 Defendants.
21

Civil No. 10-0717 DMS (NLS)

ORDER:

**(1) GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION TO PROCEED IN
FORMA PAUPERIS, IMPOSING
INITIAL PARTIAL FILING FEE
AND GARNISHING BALANCE
FROM PRISONER'S TRUST
ACCOUNT PURSUANT
TO 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)
[Doc. No. 2];**

AND

**(2) DIRECTING U.S. MARSHAL TO
EFFECT SERVICE OF COMPLAINT
PURSUANT TO FED.R.Civ.P. 4(c)(3)
& 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d)**

22 Richard Dunmore ("Plaintiff"), a state prisoner currently incarcerated at High Desert State
23 Prison located in Susanville, California, and proceeding in pro se, has filed a civil rights
24 Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

25 Plaintiff has not prepaid the \$350 filing fee mandated by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a); instead he
26 has filed a Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* ("IFP") pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) [Doc.
27 No. 2].

28 ///

I.

MOTION TO PROCEED IFP

All parties instituting any civil action, suit or proceeding in a district court of the United States, except an application for writ of habeas corpus, must pay a filing fee of \$350. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a party's failure to prepay the entire fee only if that party is granted leave to proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). *See Rodriguez v. Cook*, 169 F.3d 1176, 1177 (9th Cir. 1999). Prisoners granted leave to proceed IFP however, remain obligated to pay the entire fee in installments, regardless of whether their action is ultimately dismissed. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1) & (2); *Taylor v. Delatoore*, 281 F.3d 844, 847 (9th Cir. 2002).

The Court finds that Plaintiff has attached a certified copy of his trust account statement pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) and S.D. CAL. CIVLR 3.2. Plaintiff's trust account statement indicates that he has insufficient funds from which to pay filing fees at this time. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(4) (providing that "[i]n no event shall a prisoner be prohibited from bringing a civil action or appealing a civil action or criminal judgment for the reason that the prisoner has no assets and no means by which to pay the initial partial filing fee."). Therefore, the Court **GRANTS** Plaintiff's Motion to Proceed IFP [Doc. No. 2] and assesses no initial partial filing fee per 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). However, the entire \$350 balance of the filing fees mandated shall be collected and forwarded to the Clerk of the Court pursuant to the installment payment provisions set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

II.

SCREENING PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) & 1915A(b)

The PLRA also obligates the Court to review complaints filed by all persons proceeding IFP and by those, like Plaintiff, who are "incarcerated or detained in any facility [and] accused of, sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms or conditions of parole, probation, pretrial release, or diversionary program," "as soon as practicable after docketing." *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) and 1915A(b). Under these provisions of the PLRA, the Court must sua sponte dismiss complaints, or any portions thereof,

1 which are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim, or which seek damages from defendants who
2 are immune. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A; *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1126-
3 27 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (§ 1915(e)(2)); *Resnick v. Hayes*, 213 F.3d 443, 446 (9th Cir. 2000)
4 (§ 1915A); *see also Barren v. Harrington*, 152 F.3d 1193, 1194 (9th Cir. 1998) (discussing
5 § 1915A).

6 “[W]hen determining whether a complaint states a claim, a court must accept as true all
7 allegations of material fact and must construe those facts in the light most favorable to the
8 plaintiff.” *Resnick*, 213 F.3d at 447; *Barren*, 152 F.3d at 1194 (noting that § 1915(e)(2)
9 “parallels the language of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6)”). In addition, the Court’s
10 duty to liberally construe a pro se’s pleadings, *see Karim-Panahi v. Los Angeles Police Dept.*,
11 839 F.2d 621, 623 (9th Cir. 1988), is “particularly important in civil rights cases.” *Ferdik v.*
12 *Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1261 (9th Cir. 1992). However, in giving liberal interpretation to a
13 pro se civil rights complaint, the court may not “supply essential elements of claims that were
14 not initially pled.” *Ivey v. Board of Regents of the University of Alaska*, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th
15 Cir. 1982). “Vague and conclusory allegations of official participation in civil rights violations
16 are not sufficient to withstand a motion to dismiss.” *Id.*

17 As currently pleaded, the Court finds Plaintiff’s allegations sufficient to survive the sua
18 sponte screening required by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) and 1915A(b). *See Lopez*, 203 F.3d at
19 1126-27. Accordingly, the Court finds Plaintiff is entitled to U.S. Marshal service on his behalf.
20 *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d) (“The officers of the court shall issue and serve all process, and perform
21 all duties in [IFP] cases.”); FED.R.CIV.P. 4(c)(3) (“[T]he court may order that service be made
22 by a United States marshal or deputy marshal ... if the plaintiff is authorized to proceed *in forma*
23 *pauperis* under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.”). Plaintiff is cautioned that “the sua sponte screening and
24 dismissal procedure is cumulative of, and not a substitute for, any subsequent Rule 12[] motion
25 that [a defendant] may choose to bring.” *Teahan v. Wilhelm*, 481 F. Supp. 2d 1115, 1119 (S.D.
26 Cal. 2007).

27 ///

28 ///

1 **III.**

2 **CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

3 Good cause appearing therefor, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

4 1. Plaintiff's Motion to proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) [Doc. No. 2] is
5 **GRANTED.**

6 2. The Secretary of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or his
7 designee, shall collect from Plaintiff's prison trust account the \$350 balance of the filing fee
8 owed in this case by collecting monthly payments from the account in an amount equal to twenty
9 percent (20%) of the preceding month's income and forward payments to the Clerk of the Court
10 each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10 in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2).
11 ALL PAYMENTS SHALL BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED BY THE NAME AND NUMBER
12 ASSIGNED TO THIS ACTION.

13 3. The Clerk of the Court is directed to serve a copy of this Order on Matthew Cate,
14 Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1515 S Street, Suite 502,
15 Sacramento, California 95814.

16 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

17 4. The Clerk shall issue a summons as to Plaintiff's Complaint [Doc. No. 1] upon
18 Defendants and shall and forward it to Plaintiff along with a blank U.S. Marshal Form 285 for
19 each Defendant. In addition, the Clerk shall provide Plaintiff with a certified copy of this Order
20 and a certified copy of his Complaint and the summons so that he may serve Defendants. Upon
21 receipt of this "IFP Package," Plaintiff is directed to complete the Form 285s as completely and
22 accurately as possible, and to return them to the United States Marshal according to the
23 instructions provided by the Clerk in the letter accompanying his IFP package. Upon receipt,
24 the U.S. Marshal shall serve a copy of the Complaint and summons upon Defendants as directed
25 by Plaintiff on the USM Form 285s. All costs of service shall be advanced by the United States.
26 See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d); FED.R.CIV.P. 4(c)(3).

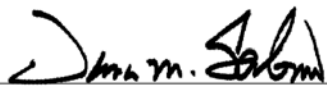
27 ///

28 ///

1 5. Defendants are thereafter **ORDERED** to reply to Plaintiff's Complaint within the
2 time provided by the applicable provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(a). *See* 42
3 U.S.C. § 1997e(g)(2) (while a defendant may occasionally be permitted to "waive the right to
4 reply to any action brought by a prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional
5 facility under section 1983," once the Court has conducted its sua sponte screening pursuant to
6 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) and § 1915A(b), and thus, has made a preliminary determination based
7 on
8 the face on the pleading alone that Plaintiff has a "reasonable opportunity to prevail on the
9 merits," the defendant is required to respond).

10 6. Plaintiff shall serve upon the Defendants or, if appearance has been entered by
11 counsel, upon Defendants' counsel, a copy of every further pleading or other document
12 submitted for consideration of the Court. Plaintiff shall include with the original paper to be
13 filed with the Clerk of the Court a certificate stating the manner in which a true and correct copy
14 of any document was served on Defendants, or counsel for Defendants, and the date of service.
15 Any paper received by the Court which has not been filed with the Clerk or which fails to
16 include a Certificate of Service will be disregarded.

17
18 DATED: April 22, 2010

19 
20 _____
21 HON. DANA M. SABRAW
22 United States District Judge
23
24
25
26
27
28